The RARS Exciter

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
RARS
WORLDWIDE FRIENDSHIP

No 281, Aug 1993 - Repeaters: 146.64-, 147.57, 224.64-, 444.5+, 444.95+ BBS: 772-9176

RARS NEEDS NEW PLACE TO HOLD MEETINGS !

The YMCA is permanently closing the meeting room that RARS has been using for the past several years. Our last meeting at the Y will be the August meeting. So, we need a new place to meet! We are asking all members to make suggestions for a new meeting location. Consider these requirements:

Minimum size: 125 people (most RARS meetings draw about 100 members, but auctions and parties draw more).

Time/Date: 1st Wednesday of each month, from 6 - 10:30 pm.

Parking: well, there should be some nearby without flooding local streets.

VE Exams: RARS VEs would like to have a second room on most even-numbered months for giving Amateur exams. It should be able to hold about 40 people.

Cost: negotiable.

Have an idea? Get a reasonable amount of detail (address, contact person and phone number if possible) and leave me a note on the BBS (772-9176), or call me at 233-8306. Thanks for your help.

73, Gary Pearce KN4AQ

It's Membership Renewal Time Again!

Yes folks, once again it is time to renew your membership. For most of you, membership expires with this issue of the Exciter. Check the expiry date on your mailing label. If you need to renew you can use the handy form in the center of this issue and mail it to the Treasurer or take it to the next club meeting at the YMCA on August 4th.

Mike, KN4BS

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS), founded in 1969, has grown to be one of the premier radio clubs in North Carolina. Current membership is around 500.

The objectives of the club are to promote world wide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communication in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique, and to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

All persons interested in Amateur Radio, currently licensed or not, are eligible to apply for membership to the club.

Dues to the club are $18.00 per year (which runs from July 1 to June 30). Applications for membership may be obtained from any of the officers named below; from the newsletter editor, named on the facing column; or at any RARS Meeting.

Club meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month, 7:30 PM, at the Raleigh YMCA, 1601 Hillsborough St.

In addition to the many social and special events, the club sponsors a 2 m repeater, W4DW, on 146.04/64 MHz. The club also sponsors repeaters on 223.04 / 224.64 MHz, 449.5 / 444.5 MHz, 449.95 / 445.95 MHz and a packet cluster node on 147.57 MHz. All repeaters cover Raleigh, and most of the surrounding Wake County area. The auto-patch on W4DW is now no longer closed and is open to all duly licensed amateurs.

1992 Officers:

President: Walter Price, KM4BU
420 Oak Ridge
Cary, NC 27511
481-3856

Vice President: Rick Merkle, KA3PSK
6412 Sassafras Lane
Raleigh, NC 27614
870-8268

Secretary: Liz White, KO4CK
PO Box 13315
RTP, NC 27709
481-2874

Treasurer: Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ
7329 Barberry Court
Raleigh, NC 27615
847-4641

The EXCITER is published monthly by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, and is mailed at no cost to its members.

Letters to the Editor, technical articles, items of interest to the ham community and guest editorials are actively solicited.

Any article published in the EXCITER does not necessarily represent the views of, the Officers, Board of Directors, Editor, or Society Membership, nor does publication thereof represent concurrence by the Officers, Board of Directors, Editor, or Society membership with the contents of the article.

Articles will be printed at the discretion of the Editor, and no article will be published unless it is accompanied by the name(s) of the person(s) submitting the article.

All copy must be in the hands of the editor by the end of the Board of Director's meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. Articles submitted for publication may be hand or type written, an ASCII file on disk transmitted electronically via telephone modem, or on the ham bands using PACKET.

Ham related items for sale by the members will be advertised without charge for one issue, but may be re-submitted as often as desired. These ads must be non-commercial in nature.

Commercial ads will be run in return for the following donations to the club:

	Single Issue	Full Year
Business Card	$7.50	$75.00
Quarter Page	$11.25	$112.50
Third Page	$15.00	$150.00
Half Page	$22.50	$225.00
Full Page	$50.00	N/A

(Commercial ads must be of "camera-ready quality," and obviously can not be sent via ham bands.) Due to the reprographic process used, no color copy can be accepted.

Mailing List: Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ
7329 Barberry Court
Raleigh, NC 27615
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1993 Editor: Mike Gingell, KN4BS
113 Trotters Ridge Drive
Raleigh, NC 27614
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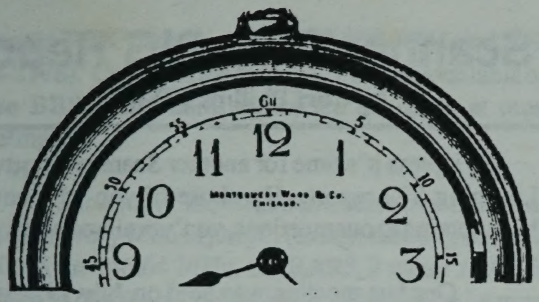
SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Young Ladies' Radio League

AMSAT

SOUTHEASTERN REPEATER ASSOCIATION MEMBER



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD MEETING

June 16, 1993

The monthly board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the YMCA on Hillsborough St. The meeting was called to order by KM4BU at 7:05. Members present at that time: WA4BPJ, KN4BS, KO4CK, WA4MJF, KC4UPZ. Late: KN4AQ, KB4MDZ, KA3PSK. Absent: N4BYO, K4HF, AA4MY, KD4OKR, WA4PEN.

Motion by WA4MJF to approve the May minutes with a correction on page 1 to change the word "audible" to "subaudible". Second by WA4BPJ. None opposed.

WA4BPJ gave the treasurer's report and said we currently have 492 members.

KA3PSK said the BBS has been transferred to the MMS system. He also said the Franklin County meeting went well and there will be no tower restrictions imposed.

KN4AQ and KD4QZZ said there was very little interest shown in their CTCSS and DSQ proposals as explained in the Exciter. KN4AQ moved that the Club adopt the parallel selective calling proposals that were written up in the past two issues of the Exciter. Second by KA3PSK. Motion carried with none opposed.

WA4MJF said according to the YMCA, the August regular meeting will be the last we can hold at the "Y". Contracts have already been let to make renovations and there will be no changes allowing continued meetings. The meeting room for the board meetings would still be available. A search committee was formed with KD4ACW, KN4AQ, and WA4BPJ.

KA3PSK suggested that an issue for the 5-year plan might include trying to find a piece of property or something permanent for meetings. KM4BU said 16 club members signed up who were interested in serving on the planning committee.

KC4UPZ said there will be a bike-a-thon to the beach September 25th & 26th and he needs a lot of help. October 3rd will be a walk at Umstead Park.

WA4BPJ asked permission to spend up to $50 for a cooler to hold ice for the meetings. Motion by KA3PSK with second by KC4UPZ to spend up to $50 to purchase a cooler for meeting use. Motion carried.

KM4BU asked when the Welcome Packet would be published again. It was decided that it not be published in the Exciter; but be available for new members. It could also be made available on the BBS for downloading.

A round of applause was given to WA4MJF for his service on the board.

Motion by KA3PSK to adjourn. None opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Liz White, KO4CK

Monthly Meeting

July 7th 1993

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held July 7, 1993, at the YMCA on Hillsborough Street. The meeting was called to order by Walter KM4BU at 7:30. At that time he welcomed the 97 members and 10 guests.

W0UCE announced that the Shearon Harris drill would be coming up the 27th of July. An incident training session to be held July 13th from 7-10 pm at the White Plains Methodist Church in Cary. The drill is held every 2 years and uses the NTS format. He encouraged all hams to participate in order to be better prepared in case of a real emergency.

Captain Gordon Pickett, W0UCE Jack and KD4TEB Gary operated field day on a 36-foot sailboat. Captain Picket made a presentation to Gary for his participation.

KM4BU introduced Robert Joseph to the members present. A check was given to N4SSS, on behalf of the club, in honor of Robert's birth.

Alan AB4OZ noted the upcoming hamfests.

KD4OKR Mike thanked all who participated and helped with Field Day. RARS ran 9 Alpha and he guessed approximately 5,000 points were amassed,

though the final tally has not been completed. He thanked KD4WTI and KD4WTO who prepared breakfast; N4VQT & Wade for cooking; KD4JMN for handling the power situation; and KD4ACK for bringing sodas for the group. NA4G and N4IQA operated an old time radio station that was very popular, proving that boat anchors still do work.

Ronnie WA4MJF announced there would be no July UHF/VHF SIG meeting and the August meeting would be at KA3PSK's place with a program on connectors on coax by KB4EXL and KJ4SO & KD4BFJ showing how to put on end and BNC connectors.

KJ4SO announced the UHF/VHF SIG would have dinner at Captain Stanley's near Garner and would tour the Sprint Cellular facility afterwards.

The monthly RARS breakfast will be held the first Saturday of each month at Shoney's on Capital Blvd. from 10-noon. All hams and friends are invited to attend.

WA4BPJ gave the treasurer's report and reminded everyone that it is time to renew membership in RARS. Call Mike with questions.

The program was the 1993 Field Day video by KN4AQ. It was extremely interesting and enjoyed by all.

KM4BU read a thank you note from KD4OKR and KD4OKQ for the check in honor of the birth of Lauren Elizabeth.

KM4BU announced that the August meeting will be the last at the Hillsborough Street YMCA. A search committee is looking at alternative locations. Contact KD4ACW, KN4AQ or WA4BPJ with any suggestions.

Door prizes: a copy of sidekick - W9VAK Don and KD4OKQ Mary Alice; World Travel Alarm clock - WA4BPJ; and an MFJ 1270B TNC for packet radio - NA4G (he'll be on the air with packet as soon as he figures out where to put the vacuum tubes in the thing!!)

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Liz White KO4CK

RARS BBS 772-9176

Free access for RARS members to exchange messages , download ARRL Bulletins and lots of Ham Radio related files. Areas for all the SIGs.

Scanner/SWL SIG Report

by Curt Phillips KD4YU

I guess it's time for another Scanner/Shortwave Listening SIG report. For those of you who haven't been coming to our meetings, you've missed some good ones.

Our last meeting was held on July 19, with 20 people present. We had a presentation on digital signal processing (DSP) by Doug Hall KF4KL of JPS Communications. In addition to its increasingly well known applications for HF/SWL receiving purposes, Doug discussed its potential to affect scanner listening in the future. Attendees were tantalized by the discussion of the future possibilities of receivers with DSP technology built-in, including a description of a DC-daylight receiver that's on the drawing board of some (unspecified) manufacturer, that will be available REAL SOON NOW.

Also, Doug discussed his shortwave to aircraft band converter, which will all anyone with an AM aircraft band capable scanner to tune in shortwave stations. This project will be published in 73 Magazine in the near future.

In June our speaker was an ex-Air Force "intelligence" monitor. Even with the topics he couldn't broach because they were still classified, his insights on military and "spy" monitoring shed a lot of light on those mysterious signals. (We even got some insights on the "numbers" stations.) Thanks to Paul KD4BJD for arranging for him to speak to us. As always, if you have topic or speaker suggestions, please let me know.

SCANNER NEWS:

Both Radio Shack and DAK are now aggressively promoting GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) handie-talkies, so activity on these frequencies will probably be increasing. GMRS frequencies run from 462.55 to 462.725 (with 12.5 KHz steps) and 467.55 to 467.725 MHz (with 25 kHz steps). Let us know if you hear anything interesting.

FREQUENCY LIST:

The current Triangle area frequency list, compiled and coordinated by Tom McKee K4ZAD, is being updated. If you have any new frequencies for it, leave him a message on the Frequencies-R-Us BBS (919-851-3121), or leave me a message on the RARS BBS or the

Triangle TeleComputer BBS (919-772-9745 and 919-553-2178). Copies of the frequency list are available on these BBSes and hard copies are available at most meetings.

NET:

Remember the Scanner/Shortwave Listening net, held every Monday night (except meeting night) at 9:30PM on 146.64 MHz, the RARS 2 meter repeater. Be sure to check-in to let us know what you're hearing, to find out what others are hearing and to exchange general information on scanning and shortwave listening.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 16, 1993 at the Golden Corral Steakhouse on Western Blvd. Dinner begins at 6:30PM (and we encourage everyone to come for the meal, since they give us the room for free) and the meeting begins at 7:30PM. The meeting topic had not been finalized at press time.

At present there are no dues or fees for participating in the Scanner/SWL SIG. If you have non-ham friends interested in scanning or SWLing, please invite them to attend. For more information on any of these topics, call me on the .64 machine, E-mail me on the RARS BBS or the Triangle TeleComputer BBS

Curt KD4YU

Tables Available

Tim Buehlman, N4IQA has donated some tables to the club. These are for use as needed by club members. There are four 4ftx3ft and one 8ftx3ft table. They are stored in the RARS storage hut at N4AGs QTH.

Exciter on Backdoor BBS

I have compiled articles from Jan-June issues of the Exciter into ASCII text files. They are available in an "Exciter" area on The Backdoor BBS 460-7903, and will be forwarded to Wilbur WD4RDT for his application on the RARS BBS.

Many thanks to Mike, KN4BS for allowing me to obtain the files to convert into ASCII for general access. KD4LLQ, Bill is given credit for the 80 column formatting which was done on these files.

The filenames on The Backdoor are:

JAN93.TXT, FEB93.TXT, MAR93.TXT, APR93.TXT, JUN93.TXT in the Ham Radio File area.

73 DE KD4IHW

Unlicensed Activity heard on 446.0 MHz in Apex

While heading for a work party at the RARS Apex repeater site on July 11, several of us monitored a family using 446.0 MHz (the UHF National Simplex Channel). This group was apparently unlicensed, and seemed to have no idea

that they were on an Amateur frequency.

At first, we heard a young boy talking to a young girl. Later an adult woman appeared, talking to the kids. It sounded like she was in one car, and the kids in another, since she told them to make sure they had their seat-belts fastened. They continued talking as they faded out.

The first part of the conversation, between the boy and girl, was very strong, sounding like handhelds within a few block of our mobiles, along 1010 road just east of downtown Apex. Again, it sounded like they were local in that area, then got into cars and drove off, out of range.

Of course, no callsigns were given. I called the boy and tried to get a little information out of him about his location and radio, but he was very coy. After the adult appeared on the channel, we broadcast to them that they were on an Amateur Radio frequency and should not be using it without a license, but at that point they were fading out, so we don't know if they heard or reacted to the information.

73, Gary KN4AQ

UHF Repeaters multiply in the Triangle

RARS' NEW UHF REPEATER ON THE AIR

New UHF repeaters have been popping up around the Triangle like spring flowers, including a new RARS repeater. It's getting hard to tell the players without a scorecard, so down the page, you'll find a scorecard.

But first, the home team: on July 11, Chuk KB4MDZ led a RARS team down to Apex to finish installing a new repeater. Chuk had built this machine out of a Motorola Micor mobile radio. The repeater has been in place for a few weeks — this trip was scheduled to survey the tower, and perhaps install an antenna.

Alan AB4OZ and Mike WA4BPJ climbed the tower, and checked out a couple of abandoned coax runs. This tower turned out to be more difficult to climb that the Bayleaf tower where the .64 repeater is located. The Bayleaf tower is big enough inside to have a ladder running up the center of the tower. Mike said that whenever he felt tired while climbing at Bayleaf, he could literally sit down on a tower cross-member to rest. The Apex tower has rungs mounted on the outside of one leg, so the crew had to "hang on" at all times, making climbing and working much more physically demanding. And the Apex tower is 500 feet tall, while the Bayleaf tower is "only" 375 feet tall.

The ground crew assisted the tower crew, getting instructions over the radio on simplex. Mike's all-ham family, Sharon KD4ACK, Joey KE4DRJ and Katie KD4DRL manned the ropes, along with Bryan KD4BFJ, Harry KD4QZZ, Bernard KC4UPX, Ken N4ZBB... and I'm sure I'm leaving someone out.

This was all rough outdoor work, with the temperature hitting the upper 90's. Now is not a good time to mention that I took a nice cool job in the air-conditioned equipment room, programming the controller (this repeater uses the same model RC-1000 controller that's in use at the Bayleaf 440 site).

Mike and Alan identified two antennas that had been abandoned by commercial systems. The antennas, and more importantly the transmission lines, checked out good. The antennas were cut for commercial operation, and would be marginal for our use, so we decided to take one down and replace it with a Diamond dual-band X-500.

Unfortunately, we didn't get that far on this trip. The hot day and all the climbing to check antennas left Alan and Mike pretty tired by the time we were ready to remove and replace an antenna. But what really made up our minds to call it a day were the thunderstorms we could begin hearing in the distance. We didn't want a french-fried tower crew.

We got what we came for, which was a good survey of available antenna sites and lines. And we got the repeater on the air, using one of the commercial antennas. The antenna we are on temporarily is cut for 418 MHz, and is located at the 300 foot level on the tower. On the next trip, we will install the Diamond antenna, near the top of the tower.

The repeater itself needs a bit of tweaking — the receiver sensitivity measured a little worse than half a microvolt for a good quieting signal (most of your radios hear a good signal at the .2 microvolt level), so Chuk is looking for a pre-amp. The transmitter puts out about 35 watts.

So given the compromise antenna and the slightly deaf receiver, the repeater isn't doing as well as it could. Handheld coverage is pretty limited, and mobiles get spotty on the north side of Raleigh. We expect excellent coverage once it's up to snuff, filling in territory in Cary and south Wake Co. that have not had UHF service.

And now, the "shell-game." See if you can keep up with this: The new Apex repeater is on 444.95. We moved the Bayleaf repeater to 444.525 and put Ed WA4PEN's callsign on it. The .525 repeater replaced Ed's old 444.5 machine (one of Raleigh's first UHF repeaters), and we kept his callsign on it to honor Ed's long record of work and support of RARS repeaters.

By the way, we moved from 444.5 to get away from competing signals from repeaters in Lexington NC, and Lynchburg VA. Frequent band openings brought those repeaters to our doorstep, and we thought we might as well take advantage of available real-estate on 440 for a clear channel. Much to our surprise, we found ANOTHER Lexington repeater on 444.525, using the same callsign (WB4ICX) as the 444.5 machine. Both repeaters are UNCOORDINATED with SERA. It's too soon to tell if we will have a problem with the .525 repeater.

Continued on Page 11

From: _____

_____

_____

Place 29c

Stamp

Here

To: RARS, c/o Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ

7329 Barberry Court

Raleigh, NC 27615

Fold Here and tape closed (don't staple)

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL APPLICATION

1: Membership acceptance/renewal requires submission of application with CAPITALIZED FIELDS of section 1 completed.

NAME: Spouse's name:
STREET: CITY: STATE: ZIP:
TELEPHONE HOME: Work: Ext:
Date of Birth: Occupation:
ARRL MEMBER?: YES NO LIFE
CALL: LICENSE CLASS: N T T+ G A E EXPIRATION :
SIGNATURE: DATE:

2: Mark your amateur interests/activities and modes of current or planned operation:
AM Packet Community Service Rag Chewing AMTOR RTTY Contesting Special Event CW
SSB DX'ing SIG member FM SSTV Equipment building Mobile Field Day Nets/Traffic

3: Mark the bands you use now or plan to use:
160m 80m 75m 40m 30m 20m 17m 15m 12m 10m 6m 2m 70cm

4: Indicate the types of equipment you have:
Portable Generator Base HF Rig Base VHF Rig Portable HF Rig Portable VHF Rig

5: Would you wish or need assistance in:
Learning code Upgrading license Traffic/Net operation Transportation Rig Problems
Improving code speed Antenna Problem ARRL Membership Earning a license TVI/RFI Other

6: All RARS members are invited and encouraged to participate in RARS activities. Please mark those areas where you would be willing to assist.

Annual hamfest License classes ARRL info/activities Field Day Contests/Awards Forming new SIG'S RARS SIG'S RARS social events Community service RARS Newsletter Ham radio publicity Construction projects Telephoning Antenna/rig problems Newsletter advertising Financial/Legal Assoc. Chairperson Other:

DUES SCHEDULE: New members only may prorate their dues for the partial year from when they join through the next June 30th.

MEMBER CATEGORY DUES: FULL Member (licensed) $18.00 / yr; $1.50/mo.
Additional Family Members : $ 5.00/yr non prorated .
Under 16 or over 60 (licensed) $12.00/yr; $1.00/mo
Associate Member (Non-licensed) $ 9.00/yr; $0.75/mo

Send dues, any changes in address, telephone, license, call or ARRL status to:
RARS, C/O Mike Murphy, 7329 Barberry Ct., Raleigh, NC 27615

HAMFEST INFO
July 1993

By John Covington WN4BBJ

(Editors Note: I receive this list monthly by email. Because of its timing it usually only covers events in detail up to a week after the Exciter goes out by US Mail. This time there is a new Hamfest in Charlotte on August 1st. With a bit of luck you might even get your Exciter the day before. Anyway, the details are interesting, and if you don't go this time you might bear it in mind for next year.)

This list covers hamfests in North and South Carolina, and is updated as needed, usually about once a month. I have included a few hamfests outside of the Carolinas that may be of interest. If you do not desire to receive this information, let me know. If you know someone reachable by e-mail who would like to receive this information, let me know and I will add them to the list.

Miscellaneous notes:

If your club has selected a date for a 1993 hamfest and it does not appear as a confirmed date in the calendar below, please let me know!

I have enclosed a few additional hamfest dates below. These events are outside of the normal coverage area of this newsletter, but some of the folks to the north may be able to use this info. Thanks to Alan Porter KD4DNU for this information!

August 1	Shennandoah Valley Hamfest, Berryville VA
August 22	Moose ARC Hamfest, Towson MD
August 29	Southern Patuxent Hamfest, Upper Marlboro MD
September 12	Butler County ARA Hamfest, Butler PA
September 18	Buffalo Hamfest, Hamburg PA

The next issue will be out in early August and will include information on the Spruce Pine and Shelby Hamfests.

Upcoming events:

QUEEN CITY HAMFEST (Charlotte)

The first annual Queen City Hamfest will be held Sunday August 1st at the Roll-A-Round Skating Center at 8830 East Harris Boulevard in Charlotte.

Hamfest hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This event is sponsored by the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club and is an ARRL-sanctioned event.

The skating center is very close to the intersection of Albemarle Road (NC 24-27) and Harris Boulevard. Harris Boulevard is a long road which connects Independence Boulevard (US 74) to I-85 (exit 45) and I-77 (exit 18). From I-85 Exit 45 you travel south approximately 9 miles to the hamfest site. There is some road construction going on so beware of orange barrels.

Talk-in is on the 147.06 (-600) repeater.

There will be computer and radio dealers as well as about 200 flea market tables. The entire hamfest is indoors; there will be no tailgating. Doors open for flea market unloading at 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM. The Skating Center is a 15,000 square foot air conditioned facility.

Admission is $4 at the gate. Flea market tables are $10 each.

There will be limited food service on site, and there is a Shoney's within walking distance of the skating center.

This is the first hamfest sponsored by the Charlotte ARC (W4CQ) and will probably be a small to medium sized event. For more information, call: Wray Ware WB4BQG, 704-535-8126

I am a member of this club and can also provide information via e-mail.

HIGH POINT HAMFEST

The 4th annual High Point Hamfest will be held Saturday and Sunday August 7th and 8th at the National Guard Armory in High Point.

Hamfest hours are from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday and 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Sunday. This event is sponsored by the High Point Amateur Radio Club and is an ARRL-sanctioned hamfest.

To get to the armory from Business I-85/US 29-70, take the Kivett Drive exit, turn west and go 0.3 miles to Elon Place. Turn left onto Elon Place and then turn right onto Armory Drive.

The armory is located about 2 blocks north of Business I-85/US29-70 at the first exit north of the US 311 exit for downtown high point. There are signs on the road giving directions to the armory.

Talk-in is on the 147.165 repeater.

VE Exams will be offered by the Greensboro W5YI VE Team. Walk-ins are OK. For more exam info call 919-288-3635.

For general hamfest info call 919-887-3039. There are dealers inside the armory and some flea market space both inside and outside.

Admission is $4 advance and $5 at the door.

This hamfest has been a fairly small one, around the size of the Elkin Hamfest. This should be well attended by dealers since there are a number of dealers in the Triad area.

1993 Carolinas Hamfest List; revised 7/22/93

All events are in North Carolina unless otherwise indicated. Dates below are subject to change. Dates marked with an asterisk are unconfirmed and are based on dates from previous years or from tentative dates published in the SERA Repeater Journal and QST.

Jul 24-25 (Sat-Sun):	Western Carolina Hamfest
Aug 1 (Sun):	1st Annual Queen City Hamfest, Charlotte
Aug 7-8 (Sat-Sun):	High Point Hamfest
Aug 21 (Sat):	Spruce Pine Hamfest
Sep 4-5 (Sat-Sun):	Shelby Hamfest
Sep 25 (Sat):	Danville/South Boston Hamfest
Sep 26 (Sun):	Falls Lake ARC Hamfest, Butner
Oct 2 (Sat):	Rock Hill SC Hamfest
*Oct 9 (Sat):	Augusta GA Hamfest
*Oct 10 (Sun):	Maysville Hamfest
Oct 16 (Sat):	Tri-Cities TN Hamfest
Oct 16 (Sat):	Central Carolina ARS Hamfest, Sanford
*Oct 17 (Sun):	Triangle East ARA Hamfest, Selma
Oct 23 (Sat):	Sumter SC Hamfest
Oct 30 (Sat):	Forest City/Rutherfordton Hamfest
Nov 7 (Sun):	Concord Hamfest
Nov 13 (Sat):	Myrtle Beach SC Hamfest
Nov 21 (Sun):	Benson Hamfest
Dec 4 (Sat):	Greensboro Hamfest

Changed/Confirmed/Added since last time:

Spruce Pine

John Covington WN4BBJ
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Charlotte, NC 28221-7122
Internet: jmcoving@mosaic.uncc.edu
MCI Mail: JCOVINGTON 342-6957
Packet Radio Mail:
WN4BBJ @N7IJI.#CLT1.NC.USA.NA
Voice: (704) 537-7653

Repeaters Multiply **(Continued from Page 6)**

And that's not all! RARS isn't the only group that's been busy putting up new UHF repeaters. Danny KD4RAA and Tom WA4SIS put one up on 444.875, 200 feet up a tower on high ground near the Fairgrounds on the west side of Raleigh. It's working pretty well, though he's discovering some of the strange properties of the 440 band. Handheld radios in low spots just a few miles from the tower are noisy, but handheld radios in Johnston County can get in fine!

The Orange County Radio Amateurs also got a machine going on 443.475, part way up the WUNC radio tower near Chapel Hill. Like out Apex repeater, this machine is still pretty temporary. Steve KZ1X told me they would be replacing the whole repeater soon, and moving the antenna up the tower another hundred or so feet. As it stands, the repeater is usable in parts of Raleigh mobile, and from the really high spots handheld.

On the other side of town, Dave WB4KPD was involved in putting up a wide-coverage repeater on 444.65 in Middlesex, between Raleigh and Wilson. This repeater is about 800 feet up a broadcast tower, facing Raleigh, so it provides good coverage over a wide area.

Finally, Bill N4ZCM working on a repeater to be on 443.225 MHz. It's still in the experimental stage, so you may or may not find it on the air.

What a blitz! All this activity is driven by several factors: Two-Meters is "full." There are no channels available for new repeaters, and most of the existing repeaters are pretty busy, so UHF is the next open pasture. And radios are becoming readily available — more and more hams are buying dual-band mobiles and portables. So here's your USER's GUIDE TO TRIANGLE UHF, at least as heard at the KN4AQth:

442.025 PCRN Backbone (part of the PCRN linking system — please do NOT use this as a local repeater!).

442.450 N4LMR's private machine in Raleigh.

443.025 Burlington. This repeater provides good coverage, and can be used in the western Triangle area. It is usually PL access, using 107.2 Hz.

443.475 Orange County Radio Amateurs' on the WUNC tower.

444.0 Triangle East ARA in Archer's Lodge, with good coverage of the eastern Triangle area.

444.10 DFMA's UHF repeater, on the VA hospital in Durham. This fairly local repeater does cover mobiles in the RTP and higher areas of Raleigh. It has an open auto-patch, and a two-meter remote base.

444.525 RARS WA4PEN repeater on the same tower as our .64 repeater at Bayleaf (near Strickland and Six-Forks Rds, in north Raleigh). Open autopatch.

444.650 Middlesex, just west of Wake County. Running 50 Watts this machine covers west to Durham and east to Farmville. Coverage includes Raleigh, Cary, Apex, Wilson, Rocly Mount, Tarboro, Smithfield & Goldsboro. The repeater is on instant drop and has no hang timer. (info provided by K4SAN - Ed.)

444.950 RARS W4DW repeater, in Apex. Still getting the kinks worked out, but should have great coverage. Open autopatch.

446.0 UHF National Simplex Channel. Other simplex listed in the SERA Journal between 445.825 and 446.150, in 25 kHz.

Gary Pearce - KN4AQ

THANK YOU

I just wanted to offer a personal note of thanks to all those who gave up most of their Sunday to help with the Apex .95 repeater work party on July 11th. It was an incredibly hot day with temperatures approaching 100 degrees! It was particularly difficult because we didn't accomplish all we set out to do, but everyone there helped make the work much easier. Thanks very much!

KB4MDZ Chuck, KD4BFJ Brian, KN4AQ Gary, AB4OZ Allen, N4ZBB Ken, KE4DRM Van, KD4QZZ Harry, WD4KSE Mark, KC4UPX Bernard, KD4ACK Sharon, KE4DRJ Joey, KE4DRL Katie

WA4BPJ, Mike Murphy

Don't Order The Coffin Quite Yet!!

(A friendly rebuttal to Vice, AA4MY's March 1993 article, "SOS RARS").

To paraphrase Mark Twain's famous remark concerning rumors of his death, be it know that rumors of RARS imminent demise have been greatly exaggerated! Every organization needs a few cynics to keep the idealists in check, otherwise it would break its own arm patting itself on the back. However, as the old saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". RARS may have some problems, but when you consider the strong points, they pale by comparison.

The current membership, as of the March issue of the Exciter, stands at 6 Novices, 185 Technicians (many of whom are Tech Plus), 56 Generals, 87 Advanced, 76 Extras and 28 unlicensed members, at least 8 passing their exams since the March '93 roster was published. Membership age runs from 7 to the 90's, with members from every economic, social and educational bracket in the community. In the March '93 issue of the RARS bulletin, all SIG's were listed with the name and number of the contact. In addition, SIG meetings are regular announced on the .64 repeater. Despite the seemingly large number of Tech members, many of these are very new, having entered the ranks of Ham Radio since the advent of the "Codeless Tech" category, and are in the process of upgrading. Likewise, many simply have no interest in C-W, but are active in ATV, Packet and other aspects of Ham Radio, and would many older Hams to shame with their knowledge, initiative and ambition. A look at the several committees will reveal much activity by relatively new Hams, with little sign of "burn-out". I am in full agreement with you on the need for upgrade classes and training, and would be happy to work towards this, and I am sure many other members would. As far as helping new hams with the loan of equipment, installation of antennas and other "Elmering", this has been very apparent to me since becoming a member of RARS, and if anyone has been denied help or advice by any member, I am certainly unaware of it.

On the subject of Field Day, which seems to be a particularly sore spot, please keep in mind that Field Day is not designed for personal enjoyment so much as it is an example of what Hams can do in an emergency, as well as providing valuable training for new Hams in handling emergency and public-service traffic. It is, and should be, a "Media Circus"; otherwise how would the media know what we are doing? Having the news media underfoot is a small price to pay for the valuable, free publicity, and it is likewise good training for actual emergencies, as the Media will definitely be around then, and we should know how to handle this situation. As a 35 year veteran of emergency communication, I know better than most how frustrating and aggravating some overly zealous reporters can be, but keep in mind that at the recent hearing concerning antenna heights in Franklin County, media coverage of Ham's involvement in the Chapel Hill telephone outage, the Hillsborough tornados, and the severe storms of a week before was instrumental in obtaining a favorable ruling by the County Commissioners, and will likely be most helpful in future situations of this nature. The 1993 Field Day included a very satisfactory mixture of old, new and middle Hams, with the older ones lending their experience and] knowledge, and the younger ones providing the enthusiasm, muscle, and youthful exuberance to ensure a successful operation, as well as being attentive to the lessons of their elders and improving their traffic-handling techniques under emergencies.

Please don't take this personally, Vince, as I am sure we are both men enough to disagree on some points without being disagreeable, and I am sure that we both have the best interest of RARS at heart. Nonetheless, PLEASE DON'T ORDER THE COFFIN QUITE YET! RARS IS ALIVE AND WELL! Let us all work together to keep it that way!

73, KO4TV, Max Bloodworth

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Heathkit SB-1000 Linear Amplifier.
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1993 CD QRZ Ham Radio CD ROM has March 1993 Callbook and search software plus tons of other stuff $15
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Club Participation

We all participate in or enjoy various aspects of our club membership; the regular evening net, special topic nets like the Tech net and the Trader's net, the Saturday morning breakfasts, the monthly meeting, SIG activities, various operating events such as Field Day and contests, this newsletter, the DX Packet Cluster, the RARSFEST, Novice/Technician classes, the friends we have met through the club, the many repeaters maintained by the club, public service activities, social events, the RARS BBS.... the list goes on.

The common denominator for all of this is participation! These things happen because there are people who care enough to give of their time to help make them happen. It can be a challenge. We are a large club. The down side of our size is that it's pretty easy for the club to come across as impersonal. The great advantage of our size is diversity. With almost 500 members, there are, within our ranks, experts and enthusiasts in virtually every facet of our hobby from satellite operation to HF DX, emergency operation and public service to homebrewing, contest operation to digital communications. I believe that you get out of the club what you put in. If RARS isn't enhancing your enjoyment of the hobby, then touch base with your expectations. What are you looking for in the club? If you're interested in an aspect of our hobby that you don't see represented in the club, then start it! Given our size, it's most likely that there are several others that also share your interest. Use the nets, the Exciter and the BBS to come together. Do you have an idea to enhance an existing SIG or club activity? Speak up! Do you want to get involved but aren't sure who to contact about your interest? Check the list of RARS officers and contacts below. If you're not sure who to contact, I'll be happy to try and help. Give me a call! We're not all blessed with the same amount of free time to enjoy our hobby, but given the large variety of club activities, there is certainly a way for you to make a contribution. We're a large group. If everyone did just a little.....

Best 73, Mike, WA4BPJ

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society 1993/1994 Officers and Contacts:

President	Walter Price	KM4BU	481-3856
Vice President	Rick Merkle	KA3PSK	870-8268
Secretary	Liz White	KO4CK	481-2874
Treasurer	Mike Murphy	WA4BPJ	847-4641
Past President	Jim DuBreck	N4BYO	781-9473
Exciter Editor	Mike Gingell	KN4BS	847-4779
Mailing List	Mike Murphy	WA4BPJ	847-4641
Publicity	Gary Pearce	KN4AQ	233-8306
FM Chairman	Chuck Gleason	KB4MDZ	467-5787
Training	Jim DuBreck	N4BYO	781-9473
W4DW Trustee	Lynn Pendleton	K4NYV	
VE Licence Exams	Vince Yakamavitch	AA4MY	847-8512
Hamfest	Cyndi Wood	KD4ACW	380-7286
Special Events	Walter VanGieson	AB4DQ	782-1424
2 Meter Net	Doug Sweet	KC4UPZ	481-1102
Public Service	Doug Sweet	KC4UPZ	481-1102
Field Day 1994	Bob Keys	NA4G	847-0069
Sig Coordinator	Ed Alderman	WA4PEN	876-0340
CW SIG	Jack Ritter	W0UCE	846-1848
DX SIG	Paul Sobon	NO0T	847-8830
Homebrew SIG	Bob Keys	NA4G	847-0069

VHF/UHF SIG	Woody Winstead	KJ4SO	848-1844
SWL/Scanner SIG	Kurt Phillips	KD4YU	772-0207
Vintage Radio	Tim Buehlman	N4IQA	
ARRL Liaison	Chuck Littlewood	K4HF	872-6555
ARRL Awards	Ron Oates, Jr.	AA4VK	847-3247
BBS SYSOP	Wilbur Goss	WD4RDT	266-9335
RARS Crystals	Liz White	KO4CK	481-2874
ATV	Woody Winstead	KJ4SO	848-1844
DX Packet Cluster	Paul Sobon	NO0T	847-8830
Wake County EC	Jack Ritter	W0UCE	846-1848

Help The Outer Banks!

From RARS Prez, KM4BU

Our fellow amateurs on the Outer Banks have proven themselves in emergency communications thanks to the yearly threat of severe weather.

The Outer Banks Repeater Association (OBRA) is a core group of amateurs who erect and maintain repeaters on the islands off the coast of North Carolina. In addition to local communications, they have formulated a goal to provide the repeaters with tools suitable for extended emergency communications. In the pursuit of this goal, I received the following letter:

Outer Banks Repeater Association
P. O. Box 1329
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
July 17th, 1993

Walter Price, KM4BU
President RARS
420 Oak Ridge Rd.
Cary, NC 27511

Dear Walter:

I am writing you in regard to a need here on the outer Banks. There has long been a need for a repeater on Hatteras Island for the local "Hams", visitors and emergency services, but until now we have not had the interest and tower space for such a project. We have overcome those obstacles now and have announced a major fund raising project.

Our association supports emergency services and Sky Warn and makes those endeavors a top priority. A repeater on Hatteras Island will greatly enhance our capabilities in an emergency.

Our record here on the Outer Banks is clear, as the enclosed articles will show (See February 1991 SERA Repeater Journal). We need help and have asked our members to contribute and have written all the service clubs here on the Outer Banks for help.

I now get the heart of this letter and ask the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society for a donation toward the Hatteras Repeater. We have set our goal at $10,000 and believe we can raise that much. We have reached around 20% of our goal now and are still going strong.

At this time we have around 80 members and are maintaining two repeaters, both with open auto patches. Our only funds come from dues.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely
(Signed) Harry P. Bridges K4UOR
Project Chairman

Members of RARS have volunteered to provide technical assistance with OBRA repeater maintenance and construction. Individual contributions or memberships in OBRA are gladly accepted. Will you help? If you would like to contribute to OBRA, mail your contribution directly to the address given above or bring your check to the August RARS me, Walter Price, KM4BU.

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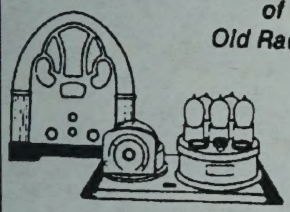

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Address correction requested.

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LAST ISSUE !

Check the date on your mailing label - Is it time to renew your membership?

Calendar of Events August 1993

Aug 1		Hamfest & Computer Fair, Charlotte, NC, Info, Alan, AB4OZ
Aug 4		Regular RARS Meeting, 7:30pm, Hillsborough St. YMCA
		WITH EXAMS, contact Vince, AA4MY, 847-8512
Aug 7,8		Hamfest, Highpoint, NC, info, Alan, AB4OZ, 787-1111
Aug 7,8		North American CW QSO party, see QST
Aug11		RARS VHF/UHF SIG Meeting, contact Woody, KJ4SO, 848-1844
Aug12		ATV Assoc. Mtg., contact Bryan, KD4BFJ, 831-1009
Aug14,15		European DX Contest, CW, see July QST
Aug18		RARS Advisory Board Meeting, 7pm, YMCA, ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!!
Aug18		RARS DX SIG, contact NO0T, 847-8830
Aug21,22		North American QSO party, Phone, see July QST
Aug24		RARS Crystals,6:30pm, Brothers Resturant,Pleasant Vly. Rd.
Aug28		RARS Homebrew SIG, info: Bob, NA4G, 847-0069
Sept	1	Regular RARS Meeting, 7:30pm, Oberlin Rd YWCA NOTE Location!!!
Sept	4,5	Shelby, NC Hamfest, info Alan AB4OZ, 787-1111
Sept	8	RARS VHF/UHF SIG Meeting, contact Woody, KJ4SO, 848-1844
Sept	9	ATV Assoc. Mtg., contact Bryan, KD4BFJ, 831-1009
Sept	15	RARS Advisory Board Meeting, 7pm, YMCA, ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!!
Sept	15	RARS DX SIG, contact NO0T, 847-8830
Sept	20	RARS SWL/Scanner SIG, contact Curt, KD4YU, 772-0207
Sept	22	RARS Homebrew SIG, info: Bob, NA4G, 847-0069
Sept	23	RARS Crystals,6:30pm, Brothers Resturant,Pleasant Vly. Rd.
Oct 6		Regular RARS Meeting, 7:30pm, Meeting place to be announced.